

SAFETY ALERT

SYSTEM / EQUIPMENT	Rolling stock / 85 t wagon coupling screw	
SAFETY ISSUE DESCRIPTION	Breaking of coupling at low temperatures even when submitted to moderate traction efforts. This safety issue concerns 85 t coupling screws made of non resilient steel, prone to fragile breaking in subzero temperatures. This issue was one of the causes of a wagon runaway followed by a collision at Modane (France) These defective coupling screws can be detected in maintenance because they do not bear any manufacturer nor standard compliance markings.	
CIRCUMSTANCES	Sub-zero temperatures	
REASON FOR ISSUE	Being a unified component, defective screws may have been fitted to any wagon anywhere in Europe.	
LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	Photos of the broken screw Drawing of the compulsory markings to be found on the coupling screw and the others coupling components.	
LINKED WITH OCCURRENCE NOTIFIED TO ERA DATABASE	Modane (France) http://erail.era.europa.eu/occurrence/FR-0784-3-0/Trains-collision,-24-01-2013,-Modane-(France) 24:01/2013	
ISSUER		
ORGANISATION	Bureau d'enquêtes sur les accidents de transport terrestre (Fr NIB)	
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ISSUE DATE	26/11/2014	